

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

FOR: EB/ORF/OPF/FPD - FRED VAZNAUGH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD
SUBJECT: WHEAT -- WHEAT NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE

1. ARGENTINE DEL TO SUGAR COUNCIL ALERTED EMBASSY
COMMODITIES OFFICER TO DOCUMENT PRODUCED JAN. 24 BY IWC
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PAROTTE REGARDING TITLE OF CONFER-
ENCE.

2. AS NOTED IN NEXT TO LAST PARAGRAPH OF NOTE, US
VIEWS ON EC ATTEMPT TO CHANGE CONFERENCE TITLE ARE
REQUESTED.

3. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:
"NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE.
THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT THE EIGHTY-
SECOND (SPECIAL) SESSION ON 11TH JANUARY 1978 REGARDING
THE CONVENING OF A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE DID NOT MAKE
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PAGE 02 LONDON 01283 241747Z

ANY REFERENCE TO THE TITLE OF THAT CONFERENCE. IN HIS
LETTER OF 11TH JANUARY 1978 TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF
UNCTAD, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TRANSMITTED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL REQUESTING
HIM TO CONVEY "A CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE AN INTER-
NATIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT
AGREEMENT, 1971".

THE QUESTION OF THE NAME TO BE GIVEN BY UNCTAD TO THE CONFERENCE GAVE RISE TO DIFFICULTIES. IN VIEW OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE COUNCIL, UNCTAD FELT THAT IT COULD NOT BE CALLED A "GRAINS CONFERENCE". THE TITLE "UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE AN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT, 1971" WAS CONSIDERED CUMBERSOME AND TOO LONG. FOR THE SAKE OF BREVITY, AND ON THE BASIS OF PRECEDENT AND WITHOUT IN ANY WAY WISHING TO RESTRICT THE SCOPE OF THE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AND NEGOTIATED AT THE CONFERENCE AS SPELT OUT IN THE RESOLUTION, IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED TO CALL THE CONFERENCE "THE UNITED NATIONS WHEAT CONFERENCE, 1978".

THE EEC HAVE MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ABOUT THIS TITLE WHICH, IN THEIR OPINION, DOES NOT REFLECT ACCURATELY THE DISCUSSIONS IN OR THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL AND WHICH, THEY STATE, IS CAUSING THEM INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE. THEY HAVE THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT THE TITLE OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE AN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT, 1971".

THOSE REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE SITUATION. WHILE UNCTAD RECOGNIZE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LONDON 01283 241747Z

THAT THE EEC ARGUMENT IS NOT WITHOUT MERIT OR LOGIC, THEY ARE SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT, AT THIS STAGE, TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE CONFERENCE. THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, BE PREPARED TO DO SO IF THE OTHER MAJOR INTERESTS IN THE COUNCIL WERE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS THEREFORE CONSULTING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE SMALL WORKING PARTY APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL TO DRAFT THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE EIGHTY-SECOND (SPECIAL) SESSION AND CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, THE EEC, EGYPT (ARAB REPUBLIC OF), JAPAN, SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS IN THIS MATTER.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COMMENTS FROM THOSE MEMBERS CONSULTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE".

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